
Appendix B

Example Vegetation Sheet and Protocols

Vegetation Survey Plots

Fifteen 1/10-acre circular plots were randomly selected representing a five percent sample of the forest type vegetation based on the information supplied by the Seattle Urban Nature Project. In addition, three transects were surveyed along the upland to lowland gradient.

Transects between 150 and 450 feet long were established in three locations. Ten-foot radius plots were placed every 50 feet and data were collected the same as the forest plots.

Data Collected

The date of data collection was recorded for each plot.

Plot Location

Plot numbers were marked with flagging tape at the center of each plot. Tape was then tied along the circumference of the plot at the cardinal points and between the cardinal points to collect data per quarter plot (radius = 37.25 feet). Accurate GPS readings were not possible given the tree cover and topography of the park. Plot location was marked on an aerial photo and also on a LIDAR map to get the best estimated location based on tree type and cover as well as topography.

Each plot was described by soil characteristic and saturation, percent slope, percent canopy closure, and aspect. Snags per plot were counted. Coarse woody debris was measured by length and diameter and classified from one to five based on decay level.

Plants per plot were recorded as tree (above 15 ft), shrub (2-15 ft), and groundcover (below 2 ft) species. Age, diameter at breast height, height, and health were recorded for each tree in the plot. Shrubs and groundcovers were identified by species and estimated by percent cover. Tree species measured in the shrub or groundcover class were calculated as regenerating forest tree species. For ease in percent cover estimations the plots were divided into quarter plots and totaled for the entire plot.

Soil and Water

The organic layer of soil was recorded as well as the mineral soil if found within the top 12 inches (sand, clay, silt, loam). The water saturation was recorded as dry, mesic, saturated, or inundated.

Canopy closure was estimated from the center of the plot.

For analysis and comparison, weed severity was determined by using a range of percent cover. :

- None to light <5% cover
- Moderate 5+ to 15% cover
- Severe > 15% cover

